APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/580,591	05/26/2000	Robert A. Levy	11819-002001	9499

22832	7590	10/23/2006

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EXAMINER
WON, MICHAEL YOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _28 August 2006_.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-35_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-35_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   In view of the Appeal Brief filed on August 28, 2006, PROSECUTION IS

HEREBY REOPENED. A non-final rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the

following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply

under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31. A new

notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee will not be required for applicant to appeal from

the new Office action. Any appeal brief filed on or after September 13, 2004 must

comply with 37 CFR 41.37.

2.   Claims 1-35 have been examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.　　Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Beck et al. (US 6,587,832 B1) in view of Swart (US 6,347,306 B1).

INDEPENDENT:

As per **claim 1**, Beck teaches of a system for obtaining information about the

work activities of a plurality of employees, comprising:

a server for providing a site of the work activities of the employee selected from a

directory of work activities (see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use

with a suitable search engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being

classified by the work activity group and further defined by organizational level within

each work activity group (see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of

responsibility" and "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-

col.12, line 59); and

a computer (see col.1, lines 34-35: "automated data processing using a

computer") capable of accessing the site over a network (see col.13, lines 41-42:

"Internet"), using the computer to create the profile of the work activities of the employee

and transmit the information about the work activities of the employee to the server (see

col.13, lines 41-52: "Fig.4 illustrates an information entry screen that is suitable for

providing data for, and initiating a search for relevant market values that has been

processed using the invention");

wherein the server calculates a market value for the profile of the work activities

of the plurality of employees including by correlating the work activities of the employee

into work activity groups (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating

the organizational levels of the work activities performed within each work activity group

(see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the

number of work activities performed at each organizational level within each work

activity group (see Fig.1A, step 13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by

assignment to each observed job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the

aggregate work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility

Level) and external market rates of the work activities within each work activity group

(see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines 55-58).

Although Beck teaches of creating a profile of the work activities of an employee

(see col.13, lines 10-25), Beck does not explicitly teach wherein each of the plurality of

employees uses the computer to create.

Swart teaches wherein each of the plurality of employees uses the computer to

create (see col.4, lines 12-29 and col.7, lines 22-24: "triggered upon the event of the

employees entering his shift completion information").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that each of the

plurality of employees uses the computer to create. One would be motivated to do so

because Beck teaches of manually or electronically entering parameters "according to

user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or

subscriber can enter the parameters via an Internet search engine to retrieve the

relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-52).

As per **claim 11**, Beck teaches of a system for obtaining information about the

work activities of a plurality of employees, comprising:

a server for providing a site of work activities of the employee selected from a

directory of work activities (see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use

with a suitable search engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being

classified by the work activity group and further defined by organizational level within

each work activity group (see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of

responsibility" and "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-

col.12, line 59); and

at least one computer (see col.1, lines 34-35: "automated data processing using

a computer") capable of accessing the site over a network (see col.13, lines 41-42:

"Internet"), using the computer to create the profile of the work activities of the employee

and transmit information about the work activities of the employee to the server (see

col.13, lines 41-52: "Fig.4 illustrates an information entry screen that is suitable for

providing data for, and initiating a search for relevant market values that has been

processed using the invention");

wherein the server calculates market values for the profile of the work activities of

the plurality of employees including by correlating the work activities of the employee

into work activity groups (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating

the organizational level of the work activities performed within each work activity group

(see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the

number of work activities performed at each organizational level within each work

activity group (see Fig.1A, step 13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of the work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines 55-58).

Although Beck teaches of creating a profile of the work activities of an employee (see col.13, lines 10-25), Beck does not explicitly teach wherein each of the plurality of employees uses the computer to create.

Swart teaches wherein each of the plurality of employees uses the computer to create (see col.4, lines 12-29 and col.7, lines 22-24: "triggered upon the event of the employees entering his shift completion information").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that each of the plurality of employees uses the computer to create. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-52).

As per **claim 12**, Beck teaches a method for obtaining information about the work activities of an employee, comprising:

providing a site accessible over the network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet");

creating a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13,

lines 10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities

(see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search

engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work

activity group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group

(see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and

"category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

calculating a market value for the profile of the work activities of the employee

including by correlating the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see

col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of

the work activities performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2,

line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities

performed at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step

13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed

job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within

each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of

the work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines

55-58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee

can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually

or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-

54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via

an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-

52).

As per **claim 21**, Beck teaches a method of obtaining information about the work

activities of an employee, comprising:

providing a site accessible over a network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet")

creating a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13,

lines 10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities

(see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search

engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work

activity group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group

(see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and

"category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

analyzing the profile of the work activities of the employee including by

correlating the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see col.1, line

45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of the work

activities performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7:

"category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities performed

at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 13; and

col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed job

family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within each

work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of the

work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines 55-

58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee

can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually

or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-

54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via

an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-

52).

As per **claim 28**, Beck teaches an apparatus comprising a computer-readable

medium that stores computer instructions for implementing an application to obtain

information about the work activities of an employee, the instructions for causing a

computer to:

provide a site accessible over the network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet");

create a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13, lines

10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities (see

Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search engine on

the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work activity

group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group (see

col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and "category/level of

responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

calculate a market value for the profile of the work activities of the employee

including by correlating the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see

col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of

the work activities performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2,

line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities

performed at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step

13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed

job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within

each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of

the work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines

55-58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-52).

As per **claim 30**, Beck teaches of a system for implementing an application to obtain information about the work activities of an employee, comprising:

a memory which stores computer instructions (see col.6, line 53: "data structure or memory');

a processor that executes the computer instructions (see col.1, line 34-37: data processing using a computer") to:

provide a site accessible over the network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet");

create a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13, lines 10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities (see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work activity group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

calculate a market value for the profile of the work activities of the employee

including by correlating the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see

col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of

the work activities performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2,

line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities

performed at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step

13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed

job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within

each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of

the work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines

55-58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee

can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually

or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-

54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via

an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-

52).

As per **claim 32**, Beck teaches of an apparatus comprising a computer-readable medium that stores instructions for implementing an application to obtain information about the work activities of an employee, the instructions for causing a computer to:

provide a site accessible over a network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet")

create a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13, lines 10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities (see Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search engine on the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work activity group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

analyze the profile of the work activities of the employee including by correlating the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of the work activities performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7: "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities performed at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 13; and col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed job family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of the work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines 55-58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee

can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually

or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-

54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via

an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-

52).

As per **claim 34**, Beck teaches a system for implementing an application for

implementing an application to obtain information about the work activities of an

employee, comprising:

a memory which stores computer instructions (see col.6, line 53: "data structure

or memory');

a processor that executes the computer instructions (see col.1, line 34-37: data

processing using a computer") to:

provide a site accessible over a network (see col.13, lines 41-42: "Internet")

create a profile of the work activities of the employee at the site (see col.13, lines

10-25), wherein the work activities are selected from a directory of work activities (see

Figures 3-5 and col.13, lines 41-52: "configured for use with a suitable search engine on

the Internet"), each work activity in the directory being classified by the work activity

group and further defined by organizational level within each work activity group (see

col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and "category/level of

responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59); and

analyze the profile of the work activities of the employee including by correlating

the work activities of the employee into work activity groups (see col.1, line 45 to col.2,

line 7: "job families"), and correlating the organizational level of the work activities

performed within each work activity group (see col.1, line 45 to col.2, line 7:

"category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"), the number of work activities performed

at each organizational level within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 13; and

col.4, lines 58-62: "combined into data points by assignment to each observed job

family"), the percentage of time allocated to the aggregate work activities within each

work activity group (see Fig.5A: Responsibility Level) and external market rates of the

work activities within each work activity group (see Fig.1A, step 11; and col.4, lines 55-

58).

Beck does not explicitly teach of an employee accessing a site.

Swart teaches of an employee accessing a site (see col.4, lines 1-5: "each

employee is preferably provided with on-line access to securely log onto a website").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that an employee

can access a site. One would be motivated to do so because Beck teaches of manually

or electronically entering parameters "according to user selection" (see col.6, lines 52-

54). Furthermore Beck teaches that a user or subscriber can enter the parameters via an Internet search engine to retrieve the relevant market values (see col.13, lines 41-52).

DEPENDENT:

As per **claim 2**, Beck further teaches wherein the server is capable of performing an analysis of the work activities of the employee based on the profile of the work activities of the employee and the calculated market value (see col.1, lines 37-41 and col.13, lines 7-8).

As per **claims 3, 13, 22, 29, 31, 33, and 35**, Beck further teaches wherein the server is capable of generating a report based on the work activities of the employee in the profile (see Fig.3 and col.13, lines 10-18).

As per **claim 4**, Beck further teaches wherein the network is a network known as the Internet (see col.2, lines 16-18).

As per **claims 5 and 6**, Beck teaches of further comprising a database including work activity values for work activities of the employee in the profile and a database including a directory of work activities used to create the profile (see col.6, lines 52-54 and col.13, lines 41-52).

As per **claim 7**, Beck further teaches wherein the profile contains a plurality of groups of work activities (see col.1, line 45-col.2, line 7: "job family and levels of responsibility" and "category/level of responsibility, or simply C/L"; and col.8, line 34-col.12, line 59).

As per **claims 8, 19, and 27**, Beck does not explicitly teach wherein the employee assigns a percentage of the employee's time to each group of work activities in the profile.

Swart teaches wherein the employee assigns a percentage of the employee's time to each group of work activities in the profile (see col.7, lines 8-31: "information could be entered upon the event of the employee punches out at the end of the shift such that the work segment comprises the time worked").

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Beck in view of Swart so that employee can assigns a percentage of the employee's time to each group of work activities in the profile. One would be motivated to do so because such means provides a more accurate assessment of an employee's market value and because Beck teaches of fair compensation (col.1, lines 22-25).

As per **claim 9**, Beck further teaches wherein a work activities group value is calculated for each group of work activities (see col.7, lines 42-col.8, lines 6).

As per **claim 10**, Beck further teaches wherein the work activities group values for the groups of work activities are weighted to calculate the market valuation for the profile (see col.7, lines 42-43).

As per **claims 14, 15, 23 and 24**, Beck teaches of further comprising adding and deleting work activities of the employee to the profile (see col.6, lines 52-54: "according to the user selection").

As per **claims 16 and 25**, Beck teaches of further comprising providing a template for the employee to create the profile (see col.6, lines 52-54 and col.13, lines 41-45).

As per **claim 17**, Beck teaches of further comprising, converting the market valuation for the profile to a local geographic equivalent value (see col.14, lines 47-49).

As per **claims 18 and 26**, Beck teaches of further comprising, assessing a capability of the employee with respect to the work activities in the profile (see Fig.3).

As per **claim 20**, Beck further teaches wherein the work activities group values for the groups of work activities are weighted to calculate the market valuation for the profile (see col.7, lines 42-43).

Response to Arguments

4.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the independent claims in the Appeal Brief filed August 28, 2006 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Although the examiner believes that Beck teaches all the limitations broadly recited in the claims, the examiner has been advised to explicitly teach the element of an employee performing the creating. Therefore, a new reference has been cited to better teach the limitation (see rejection set forth above).
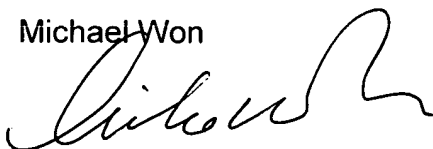
Conclusion

5.   Claims 1-35 have been rejected and remain pending.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Won

October 16, 2006